

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 01437 040941Z

17

ACTION EA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1437

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PT PO

SUBJ: VISIT OF GOVERNOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR TO
LISBON AND GOI FEARS ABOUT PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A. SURABAYA 60 B. JAKARTA 930

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONDEPT'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA TOLD
POLCOUNS FEB 3 THAT GOI FEARS VISIT OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR
GOVERNOR COL LEMOS PIRES TO LISBON THIS WEEK WITH PRO-
INDEPENDENCE TIMORESE POLITICIANS AND "LEFTIST" DRIFT IN
GOP, MAY RESULT IN DECISION BY GOP TO GRANT
PORTUGUESE TIMOR INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH
GOI. AKOSAH'S COMMENTS COINCIDE WITH OTHER REPORTS OF GROWING
FEELING WITHIN GOI THAT IT CAN NO LONGER RELY ON PORTUGAL'S
COOPERATION ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND THAT
INDONESIA MAY THEREFORE HAVE TO ACT UNILATERALLY
TO ENSURE ULTIMATE MERGER OF COLONY INTO INDONESIA.
ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE LISBON'S CURRENT
ASSESSMENT OF GOP THINKING/PLANNING RE FUTURE OF
PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND LIKELY GOP REACTION TO INDONESIAN
EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE OR FORCE MERGER COLONY INTO
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PAGE 02 JAKART 01437 040941Z

INDONESIA. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION

AVAILABLE ON PIRES' VISIT END SUMMARY

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT GOVERNOR LEMOS PIRES WOULD VISIT LISBON THIS MONTH AND STOP IN JAKARTA FR TALKS ON WAY BACK TO TIMOR, AKOSAH SAID PIRES IS NOW ENROUTW TO LISBON, HAVING TOUCHED DOWN BREIFLY IN BALI AND JAARTA LAST WEEKEND ON HIS WAY. HE SAID PIRES IS ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FRETELIN AND TIMORESE DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDT) PARTIES, WHICH HAVE RECENTLY FORMED PRO-INDEPENDENCE COALITION (REF A). ACCORDING AKOSAH, THE THIRD PORTUGUESE TIMOR FACTION, APODETI, WHICH FAVORS MERGER WITH INDONESIA, TURNED DOWN INVITATION FROM PIRES TO JOIN DELEGATION TO LISBON.

2. AKOSAH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PIRES DELEGATION MAY REPRESENT NUCLEUS OF PROVISIONAL INDENPENDENCE GOVERNMENT FOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND THAT TALKS IN LISBON COULD PRODUCE FAIT ACCOMPLI LEADING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH INDONESIA. HE SAID GOI FEARS THAT LISBON REGIME IS INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WHICH FAVOR ANGOLA-TYPE INDEPENDENCE SOLUTION FOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR. IN THIS CONNECTION GOI IS CONCERNED THAT GOP MAY NOT LIVE UP TO PROMISE WHICH FONMIN SOARES MADE TO MALIK AT UN IN NOVEMBER 1974 TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CINEONESIA ON FUTURE OF TIMOR.

3. AKOSAH SAID GOI KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT GOVERNOR PIRES, BUT BELIEVES HE IS COSE TO GONCALVES AND ALSO COMMUNIST GROUP; THERE IS CONCERN IN GOI THAT PIRES MAY HAVE COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES AND FAVORS INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR NOTWITHSTANDING INDONESIA'S DESIRE TO PREVENT THIS.

4. ASKED ABOUT RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED DECISION TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS (REF B), AKOSAH SAID GOI STILL SEEKING FUNDS TO OPEN EMBASSY IN LISBON, IMPLYING PROCESS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME. IN MEANTIME, HE SAID, GOI MUST FOLLOW LISBON SCENE INDIRECTLY THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN PARIS, AND THEREFORE LACKS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.
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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 01437 040941Z

5. COMMENT AND ACTION RQUESTED: AKOSAH'S COMMENTS REINFORCE IMPRESSION WHICH NOW MORE PREVALENT AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS (EG AUSTRALINS, SINGAPOREANS) THAT GOI HAS ALL BUT DECIDED IT CANNOT COUNT ON GOP COOPERATION AND WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE UNILATERAL MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT PORTUGUESE TIMOR IS EVENTUALLY INCORPORATED INTO INDONESIA. WE WOULD

APPRECIATE LISBON REPORTING AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
PIRES' VISIT AND, AS REQUESTED ABOVE, ON CURRENT
PORTUGUESE ATTITUDES AND INDICATIONS. EMBASSY PREPARING
CONTINGENCY PAPER ON TIMOR TO WHICH CURRENT ASSESSMENT
THESE ATTITUDES WOULD BE VALUABLE ADDITION.
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